

REMARKS

The dependency of claim 51 has been changed to overcome the objection to that claim.

A terminal disclaimer is submitted to overcome the double patenting rejection.

Claims 31 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Silvanov. Claims 31, 33-37, 41, 44, 46, 52 and 53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Kay.

Claims 31 and 35 have been amended to highlight the structural differences between the present invention and the cited art.

The Silvanov reference teaches a device that seals the stoma by inflating a member situated within the body. The stoma covering means, external to the body, is not pressed against the stoma to seal the stoma.

Claim 31 requires means, situated externally to the body, for covering the stoma and means situated over the stoma covering means to press the stoma covering means against the stoma to seal the stoma. In Silvanov, there is no means situated over an external stoma covering means for pressing the external stoma covering means against the stoma to seal the stoma. Accordingly, Silvanov cannot be said to anticipate claim 31 or claim 32 dependent thereon.

Kay teaches a device with suction chambers 80, 82 which when depressurized (that is, when a vacuum is formed therein) function to press the device against the stoma.

Claim 31 requires “pressurizable means located over said stoma covering means to press said stoma covering means against the stoma to seal the stoma.” Kay lacks any

pressurizable means located over the stoma covering part that functions to press the stoma covering part against the stoma to seal the stoma.

Claim 35 requires "recess defining means defining... a recess... situated over the stoma covering means... pressurizable to press the stoma covering means against the stoma."

Claims 32, 33 and 34, dependent upon claim 31, distinguish over Silvanov and Kay for the same reasons as claim 31. Claims 36-58, dependent upon claim 35, distinguish over Silvanov and Kay for the same reasons as claim 35.

It is now believed that this application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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